

**On September 12, 2006
Coconino County voters
will be asked to authorize:**

- 1) an increase in the Jail District Sales Tax rate of 2/10 of one cent; and
- 2) an extension of the term of the Jail District Sales Tax for an additional 15 years.

Background

In 1996, the Board of Supervisors sought and voters approved a 3/10 cent Jail District Sales Tax. The Citizens Committee recommended a full 1/2 cent sales tax, but the Supervisors decided to seek a lower tax rate in order to save taxpayer money, with the understanding that the revenues from the tax at the lower rate would not last forever. As a result, taxpayers have saved \$28 million over the last 10 years.

However, longer holding periods for inmates and lower than expected revenues from bed rentals have resulted in the jail now operating at a deficit. The deficit drains monies from the County General Fund and is unsustainable. The Jail District Board of Directors is now seeking an increase in the Jail District Sales Tax in order to eliminate the deficit and to fund the implementation of an In-Custody Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program.

Question One

Shall the Coconino County Jail District Board of Directors be authorized to increase the Jail District Sales Tax (excise tax) by two-tenths of a cent, which equates to 20 cents on a \$100 purchase, to provide revenues for operating, maintaining and financing the County Jail System?

Question Two

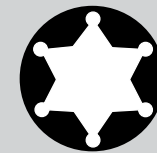
Shall the Coconino County Jail District Board of Directors be authorized to extend the term of the existing County Jail District Sales Tax by fifteen years?

**2006 Citizens Committee
Finding:**

**Coconino County Jail
"is operating efficiently,
effectively and responsibly,
even though it is under
adverse financial conditions".**

For more information go to:
www.coconino.az.gov/jailtax

**Election Day:
September 12, 2006**



**Jail District
Sales Tax**

**Proposed Sales
Tax Increase &
Extension**

The proposed increase is on a sales tax on non-grocery purchases in Coconino County. The tax would be paid by residents, non-property owners and visitors — all of whom benefit from the jail. Approximately 1/3 of the tax would be paid by visitors.

The proposed sales tax increase would raise the Jail District Sales Tax from 3/10 cent to 1/2 cent, which is the maximum permitted by State law. The 2/10 cent increase equates to 20 cents on a \$100 purchase.

The Jail District Sales Tax is currently set to end in 2012. If the extension is approved, then the County Jail District Sales Tax would continue until June 30, 2027, but could not be extended beyond without voter approval.

In-Custody Drug & Alcohol Treatment Program

Substance abuse has a major impact on the jail population and on community safety. Drug and alcohol offenses account for 17% of incarcerations. Failure to Appear/ Failure to Comply offenses account for 23% of incarcerations; many of these were originally drug and alcohol related offenses. Substance abuse also contributes to the high level of property crime in Flagstaff.

An In-Custody Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program would be part of the larger community continuum of care.

A California study found that for every \$1 spent on treatment, \$7 is saved over the long-term. Substance abuse treatment reduces repeat crimes by 2/3 and hospital visits by 1/3 (CALDATA Study, 1994).

The Sheriff, working with the Jail District Board of Directors, is developing an in-Custody Drug & Alcohol Treatment Program for Coconino County. Several highly regarded programs are being researched and studied to determine the best combination of services and procedures to most effectively treat Coconino County jail inmates.

The Sheriff's Office and other experts will be visiting several model programs and reporting to the Jail District Board throughout the summer months as their research and analysis continues and will be ready to implement the program on January 1, 2007.

However, funding for the drug and alcohol treatment program is only possible if the sales tax increase is passed on September 12, 2006.

Effective Criminal Justice System

The jail is a necessary component of the criminal justice system and is central to supporting safe communities and a vital economy. The criminal justice system includes local police departments, sheriff, county attorney, courts, probation department, and other related agencies.

For several years, these groups have been communicating and cooperating through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Just since 2000, our criminal justice system has received six awards for excellence from the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

The Coconino County Jail serves everyone in the County, including the cities of Flagstaff, Page, Williams, Sedona and Fredonia. In the past seven years, the establishment of the Jail District saved local cities \$6.62 million in monies that would have otherwise gone to support jail costs for their local inmates.

The current efforts by Coconino County are part of the continual process of improving our criminal justice system, and enhancing the efficiency and fiscal responsibility of the jail.

Summary

- Jail is key to safe communities & vital economy
- Sales Tax increase eliminates deficit
- Sales Tax increase funds new In-Custody Drug & Alcohol Treatment Program
- Board continues conservative fiscal approach
- Not a permanent tax
- Reasonable cost – 20¢ on a \$100 purchase
- 1/3 paid by visitors

Questions? Find out more at www.coconino.az.gov/jailtax